

ODENTON TOWN CENTER BOULEVARD IS OPEN AFTER ALMOST A DECADE OF WORK

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The road can't be found on Google Maps yet, but it's definitely there.

Anne Arundel County officials and Odenton advocates celebrated the opening of Odenton Town Center Boulevard with a brief ribbon-cutting ceremony Wednesday on the road's roundabout. The road has been in the works for about 10 years and connects Route 175 to the Route 32 underpass to Town Center Boulevard near Seven Oaks.

"Today is a demonstration of bricks and mortar progress," said County Executive Steve Schuh, referencing similar language he used in 2016 when construction on the road began.



The Halle Cos. — which is developing the more than 100 acres between routes 175 and 32 — entered into a public/private partnership with the county to fund the road. The developer paid road costs while the county provided impact fee credits. The project cost about \$15 million.

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The new road includes a hiker and biker trail. Jon Korin, president of Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County, said the project is part of a larger vision of connected bike trails throughout the county north of Route 50. "We have a vision for a loop all the way around north county," he said.



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The road is another example of intensified development in Odenton. Officials contributed the “economic engine” of [Fort George G. Meade](#) as the driving force behind the developing area. The military base is the largest employer in the county, according to the Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation.

The new road gives better access to Fort Meade for cars, bikes and pedestrians, especially those already in the area, said County Councilman Andrew Pruski, D-District 4. “It’s about quality of life,” he said.

The project was expected to be completed in July 2017. But weather delayed the project, with intense rains in 2018 contributing to a seven- to eight-month delay, said Rich Rounds, vice president of construction and development for Halle.

Rounds said working with the county had its ups and downs but in all the partnership worked out. He applauded the Schuh administration for being proactive on certain issues.

“The longer it takes to get an answer, the longer it takes to get the project done,” Rounds said.

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